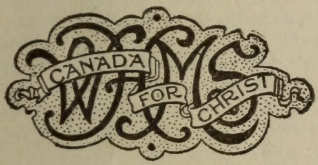
General Information



LP
F5012
1912
P747

1912.

The Women's Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Regarding the Work of the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

On June 9th, 1903, the Women's Home Missionary Society was organized by the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee, and sanctioned by the General Assembly the same year, for the purpose of undertaking nursing and hospital work at such points in the newer districts of the country as the Committee should select, and engaging in any other work of a kindred nature deemed advisable, and to co-operate with the Committee in raising funds for the General Home Mission work of the Church. It seeks also to promote amongst the people of our Church a deeper and more intelligent interest in religious work in our own land.

(a) How to Organize.

The first step in the formation of an Auxiliary of the Women's Home Missionary Society is to consult with the minister and session of the congregation. Having done this (1) communicate with the Secretary of the Presbyterian Society of the W.H.M.S., if there be one in the Presbytery to which the congregation belongs.

(2) Where no Presbyterian Society of the W.H.M.S. exists, communicate with the Auxiliary and Organization Secretary of the Board. In the first case the President of the Presbyterial Society might be invited to assist

in organizing. In the second case a member of the Board of Management would assist if at all possible. The minister of the congregation, or one interested in the work of the Society, can without delay undertake the work of organization.

(b) Order of Procedure.

The meeting shall be opened with devotional exercises, followed by an explanation of the aims and methods of the W. H. M. S. The Constitution for Auxiliaries should then be adopted. The same Constitution is used for an affiliated Society or a Union or Co-operative Auxiliary. This Constitution provides for the membership fee, name, election of officers, duties of same, preparations of reports, disposal of monies, time and place of meetings, etc., all of which may be arranged to suit the circumstances, etc., of the members. For ready reference, it is advisable to paste a copy of the Constitution in the Minute-book.

(c) Young People's Mission Bands.

The same method of organization and procedure may be followed when forming Young People's Mission Bands, in which case the Mission Band Constitution is adopted. In a congregation where a Home Mission Auxiliary already exists, its officers, if desirable, may assist with the organization.

(d) Affiliated Societies.

Any organization adopting the Constitution of the W. H. M. S., paying all its fees and a portion of its contributions into the treasury, shall be called an Affiliated Society.

(e) Co-Operative Auxiliaries.

A Co-operative Auxiliary may be organized in a congregation where only one Women's Missionary meeting is possible for both Home and Foreign work. The two divisions of the work shall be kept distinct, and be taken up either at alternate meetings or consecutively at the same meeting. There may be either one or two sets of officers, as deemed best, but there should be two separate sets of books for minutes, fees and offerings, each branch of the work reporting at the close of its year to its own Society, thereby making each division of the work auxiliary to its own Society, whether the W. H. M. S. or the W. F. M. S.

(f) Reporting Organization.

The formation of an Auxiliary, Affiliated Society, or Co-operative Auxiliary or Mission Band, should be reported at once—with a list of officers elected—to the Presbyterial Secretary (where one exists) or to the Auxiliary and Organization Secretary or the Mission Band Secretary of the Board.

(g) Presbyterial Societies.

Where there are seven or more organizations in one Presbytery affiliated with the Women's Home Missionary Society, it is desirable that a Presbyterial Society be formed at as early a date as possible.

For further information see Presbyterial Constitution.

(h) Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the General Society.

An Auxiliary may send the President, or her substitute, and one delegate.

An affiliated Society, Young People's Society, or Mission Band, may send the President or her substitute.

(i) Membership.

(a) Fees: Each Auxiliary, Mission Band or Affiliated Society decides its own annual fee.

Any person paying one dollar annually either through an Auxiliary, Affiliated Society or directly into the General Treasury, shall become a member of the General Society.

(b) Life Members: Anyone who pays (or on whose behalf there is paid) at one time the sum of twenty-five dollars, shall be enrolled as a Life Member of the General Society. The Life Membership fee should be included by the local Treasurer in her quarterly remittance, sending a receipt for it to the Life Membership Secretary, who will then send the Life Membership Certificate.

Remittances—A Word to Treasurers.

It is desirable that Treasurers of Auxiliaries, Affiliated Societies and Mission Bands, should remit quarterly to the Presbyterial Treasurer, or when no Presbyterial Society exists, to the Treasurer of the General Society. The Treasurers of Presbyterial Societies should in their turn remit quarterly to the General Treasurer. This, if carried out, will avoid complications and facilitate the better management of the work.

It is urged that the Thankoffering Meeting be held in the Spring, at which an "Easter Offering" may be made. For further information regarding organization apply to Organization Secretary of the Board.

Home Helper Department.

This department was organized that any who were unable to attend meetings might have the privilege of helping. All information with regard to it, may be obtained from The Home Helpers' Secretary of the Board.

Medical Department.

Medical work is established at nine different places in the West, and situated as follows: St. Andrew's Hospital, Atlin, B.C.; Teulon Hospital, Teulon, Manitoba; "Anna Turnbull" Hospital, Wakaw, Sask.; "Rolland M. Boswell" Hospital, Vegreville, Alberta; Telegraph Creek Hospital,, B.C.; Sifton Mission House, Sifton, Manitoba; Ethelbert Mission House, Ethelbert, Manitoba; "Pioneer" Hospital, Grand Prairie, Peace River District, Alberta; Logger's Mission, Pacific Coast.

Five medical missionaries and twenty nurses, all graduates, constitute the hospital staff. The W. H. M. S. is responsible for the salaries of all the nurses, the board of two, hospital and mission house maintenance (except that covered by Government grant), travelling expenses of nurses on entering the work and all the expenditure entailed by improvements, alterations and additions. Three new hospitals are in the course of erection (1912), the upkeep of which will add considerably to the hospital estimates. This department at the present time involves an annual expenditure of nearly twenty thousand dollars.

Any further information to be had from the Hospital Secretary of the Board.

Department of Supplies, Clothing, Etc.

When an Auxiliary or Mission Band is organized, almost the first question asked is, What work shall we do? or, What is most needed? We desire (first) your intelligent, earnest, prayerful interest; (second) money sufficient to meet the estimates given the W. H. M. S.by the Home Mission Committee; (third) supplies.

(a) For the Patients.

Bandages, old linen, cotton and flannelette, night gowns, men's night shirts buttoned down the back; kimonas, dresing gowns, bed slippers, underwear, pneumonia jackets.

Clothing, night gowns, common sheets of factory cotton, maternity bags, consisting of two short bed gowns, two flannelette night gowns for the mother, buttoned all the way down the front, two binders, two dozen diapers, three infants' bed gowns, three knitted shirts, two babies' flannel petticoats, two pairs infants' knitted shoes, two flannel binders, two white flannelette head shawls made one yard square, finished with hem binding.

For missionaries to distribute in cases of distress or need—quilts, good second-hand clothing of all kinds for both sexes (no small, tight waists or jackets), infants' clothing, and clothing for boys and girls.

(b) Clothing for School Children.

Night gowns for children in hospitals and cottage residences.

For boys—sweaters, suits, underwear, shirts, caps, toques, mufflers, mittens, boots and stockings.

For girls—coats, dresses, petticoats, drawers, waists, undershirts, sweaters, toques, hoods, scarfs, mittens, boots and stockings.

Christmas gifts which some Bands may provide: Infants 'knitted shirts, Sunday School picture rolls, picture scrap books, school supplies, dolls, paper dolls, made attractive with colored chalk, and filled candy bags.

For needy settlers in New Ontario: Quilts and good second-hand clothing.

When Auxiliaries desire to buy furniture for the hospitals, mission houses, or cottage residences, the money should be sent through Auxiliary, Presbyterial and Board Treasurers, marked "For furnishings," and notice also sent to Supply Secretary. One hundred dollars annually gives the donor the privilege of naming a cot. It is not desirable to use for supplies funds contributed in the ordinary way.

Auxiliaries not coinected with any Presbyterial should forward their supplies to Toronto the first week in October. Presbterials should collect bales from the different Auxiliaries and ship direct to the mission fields and hospitals early in October. All bales should be distinctly marked on the outside with name of sender. Notices should be sent to Board and Presbyterial Secretaries, giving list of contents and other details. For any further information apply to Supplies Secretary of the Board.

"The Pioneer."

"The Home Mission Pioneer," the magazine of the Society, is published monthly. It contains short articles on Mission methods and principles, and letters from workers on the fields and in the hospitals and Mission houses. It is also the medium for interchange of ideas between one Auxiliary and another, and in no other place can so much information regarding the progress of the work of the W.H.M.S. be found. The subscription price is 15c, but if individual mailing is desired, 18c, except for Toronto, U. S. or foreign mailing, which is 25c. The year begins with the March number.

All subscriptions should be sent through Presbyterial Pioneer Secretaries, except where no Presbyterial Society exists, in which case

they should be sent direct to the General Pioneer Secretary. Payments should be made by cheque, post-office order or postal note, but not stamps, unless unavoidable. Presbyterial Secretaries will on receipt of a number of orders, forward these with full particulars and one cheque to cover amount, to the General Pioneer Secretary. Order forms may be obtained for this purpose. Any further information may be obtained from the General Pioneer Secretary.

Publication Department.

The Publication Committee is responsible for the publication of all leaflets, and will be very glad to receive any papers bearing on our work, suitable for Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, and will publish the same should they be considered helpful. The aim of this department is to keep before our Society the best and latest information regarding our work, and to publish leaflets designed to be an inspiration. A complete list of literature, with prices, is given each month in the "Pioneer." Photographs of some of our hospitals and mission fields may be loaned free of charge, except postage. Sample copies of literature are sent free to any congregation where they are needed for the purpose of organization. Watch the "Pioneer' for notices of new literature. Apply to the Secretary-Treasurer of Publications.

Department of the Press Secretary.

An Auxiliary organized in a town cannot afford to be without a press department. The Press Secretary of the Board will gladly furnish all information required, and would like the Secretary of an Auxiliary to write to her as soon as the Auxiliary is organized.

Lecture Department.

Lectures with stereopticon views of our Hospitals and Mission fields are on hand, and any one of them will be loaned for $2.00 to cover express and breakages. Special arrangements may be made for Presbyterials. These lectures will be found the best "educators" in the possession of the Board. The aim is to give a clear object lesson of the scope of our Home Mission work. Each Auxiliary has to secure its own lantern and lecturer. Small sets of slides are being prepared for use of Sunday schools, which will be loaned on payment of freight or postage. For further information, apply to the Lecture Secretary of the Board.

Library and Magazine Department.

The need of literature is greatly felt on our Mission fields, especially Sunday School Libraries. Any Auxiliary which collects from 50 to 100 good, reliable books, will be given the name of a field needing a library. Boxes of magazines and books are always needed at the mining and railroad camps; they are sent prepaid by the Auxiliary donating them direct to the camps.

Copies of Church and Sunday School papers may be sent to Mission Schools, families, or isolated places or people, where they are needed. Magazines also may be sent by mail regularly, after being read, to our Mission workers in the West, North, to lonely ones, or indeed to any place where they would be appreciated. Almost any quantity of literature can be used in the construction and mining camps.

It is recommended that Auxiliaries see that all the Missions and augmented charges in their own Presbyteries are well supplied with

libraries and Sunday School literature necessary for their work, and then outside places looked after. If Auxiliaries have no special place where they wish to send their books or literature, addresses may be obtained from the Library Secretary of the Board, to whom it is always well to report, so that there may be no overlapping in the work.

Educational Department.

The educational work consists of the following:

1. An annual grant of $800 to assist in the education of young Ruthenians in Manitoba College. These young men are pursuing their studies with the ministry or teaching profession in view.

2. Responsibility for two homes and the maintenance of a third to be erected, for Ruthenian boys at Vegreville, each accommodating ten boys. In these buildings they will have the influence of a cultured Christian home, under the care of a Christian woman as matron, and will assist in the care of the home, attend the public schools during the week, and Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School on the Sabbath.

3. A similar residence at Teulon, for thirty boys.

These homes have the entire approval of the Home Mission Committee of the Church. The aim is to send out Christian, educated young men, who will enter the ministry or teaching profession among their own people. The cost of maintenance of the boys at Teulon and Vegreville, exclusive of clothing, is about $50 each per annum.

The Sabbath Schools have contributed over $2,000 toward the erection of Teulon build-

ings, and it is hoped that they will continue their support of this work.

4. Girls' homes are also to be erected in the near future, so that the Ruthenian girls may have the same advantages as the boys.

5. A few children—orphans, or whose parents are very poor—are also being supported in the Mission Houses at Ethelbert and Sifton, and in the Hospitals at Vegreville, Wakaw and Teulon.

Any additional information on the educational work may be obtained from the Education Secretary of the Board.

Deaconess Work.

"She hath been a succourer of many" (Romans xvi. 2). In the year 1910, the Home Mission Committee recommended the employment of Deaconnesses, and at the annual meeting of the W. H. M. S., held that same year, they cordially adopted the principle of the employment of Deaconnesses in aggressive Christian work, and instructed the Board to make such provisions as the funds will permit for bearing a fair share of the expense of training Deaconesses for their work, and for the employment of as many as agreed upon in conjunction with the Home Mission Committee.

All information concerning application, etc., may be obtained from the Superintendent of the Deaconess' Home, 60 Grosvenor Street, Toronto.

Childerhose Memorial Fund.

The Childerhose Memorial Fund was undertaken by the Board in memory of the late Superintendent. It is in the form of a loan fund, for Home Missions in Northern Ontario,

wherever help for a Church, Mission Tent lot, or Manse, is needed. We would like every Auxiliary to be financially interested in this fund. Any information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Childerhose Memorial Fund.

Department of the Stranger.

Under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly, the Church will endeavor to keep track of Presbyterian immigrants to Canada, and also members and adherents of the Canadian Church changing their places of residence. As auxiliary to the Committee, the Women's Society, through its various branches, will lend assistance in reporting to the Committee the names of those who leave their districts, and in welcoming those who shall from time to time be reported to them.

To this end each Auxiliary, Mission Band and Affiliated Society is asked to appoint on its Executive a Strangers' Secretary, whose duty shall be, in co-operation with the minister of the congregation, and with the assistance of the members of the society, to seek to reduce the number of those who drift from the Church, and welcome those coming to our shores. Cards or booklets of forms shall be sent to Secretaries for use in reporting the names of those leaving the districts. All correspondence shall be directed, for the present, to the Home Mission Offices of the Presbyterian Church, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Loggers' Mission.

In March, 1912, at the request of the Home Mission Committee, the W. H. M. S. decided to take up the Loggers' Mission, an amplifica-

tion of work already begun on the coast of British Columbia. The enlargement was necessary owing to the rapid devlopment in that part of the Dominion.

The people to be ministered to are the settlers living in isolated places, the fishermen, the workers in the canneries, and the lumbermen who ply their industry all along the coast. It was agreed to appoint two men for this work, one a doctor and one a minister, and to furnish them with a gasoline launch, medical supplies and good literature.

Note.—The names and addresses of all Secretaries of the Board will be printed each month in the "Pioneer."